

GSBS NEWS

Spring
2003/2004

The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston

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MD ANDERSON
CANCER CENTER
Making Cancer History®



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

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Finishing the Degree

Back Cover: Alumni News
Dolores (Dorrie) Lamb, Ph.D.
President 2003-2004
GSBS Alumni Association

Benefactor News



The T. C. Hsu Memorial Scholarship Endowment as of this publication date totals \$86,527.

Special thanks go to benefactors Margaret Hsu and **M. D. Anderson Cancer Center**. We are deeply grateful to lead gift donors **Larry Deaven, Sen Pathak, and Tadashi Utakoji** as well as Yun-Fai (Chris) and Suet-Yim (Diana) Lau, Eugene Gerner, Millicent Goldschmidt, Howard Hubbell, James Mascarello, Michael McClure, and Elton Stubblefield.

Thank you to all inaugural benefactors including David Anderson, Allen Ansevin, Ralph Arlinghaus, Frances Arrighi, Kurt Benirschke, John Bieseke, Daniel Billen, BioConcepts, Valentine Goodrich Boving, R. W. (Bill) Butcher, William Chu, Hugh and Ellen Clark, Mary Cline, William Dewey, Helen Drwinga, Josh Fidler and Margaret Kripke, Emil J Freireich, Cynthia and Burr Furlong, Jan Liang and Gary Gallick, Alfred Gardner, Alberta and Armand Glassman, Beng and Dah Hsi Ho, Dennis Johnston, Kiva and James Hokanson, Robert Hurlbert, Alfred Knudson, Jr., Lawrence Lachman, Mong-Hong Lee, Peter Lomedico, Manley Mandel, Thomas and Nancy Matney, Pierre McCrea, Louis Meharg, Marvin Meistrich, Emanuel Murgola, Sandra Murphree, Peggy O'Neill, Jacqueline Peltier-Horn, Dindyal Ramkissoon, Melva Ramsay, Grady Saunders, Jack Schull, Margaret Spitz, George Stancel, Gayle Standfield, Louise Strong, Stephen Tomasovic, Earl Walborg, Darrell and Afton Ward, Welcome Foods, Linda Wheeler, Virginia and Wayne Wray, Edward Yeh, Dihua Yu, Wei Zhang, and Stuart Zimmerman.

This overwhelming support is an indication of the importance of the cellular studies and cancer research accomplished by Dr. Hsu, a man of humor and humility. To excerpt words from his memorial service...

Dr. Hsu's research on the mapping of salivary gland chromosomes and the cytotaxomy of Drosophila virilis groups is still considered a landmark in the field. Eventually, his hypotonic procedure was adopted and led to the accurate identification of 23 pairs of chromosomes. His laboratory quickly became a mecca for mammalian cytogenetics. He collaborated with colleagues to develop the C-banding technique of staining chromosomes, and on electron microscopy studies that advanced understanding of nuclear component ultrastructure. He was one of the first to serve as faculty president of the Graduate School.

Shortly after Dr. Hsu's memorial service in December, Mrs. Jeanette Hsu, T. C.'s wife, died unexpectedly. Our thoughts at this difficult time remain with his daughter, Margaret. It is her hope and ours that the first T. C. Hsu Fellows will be named sometime in the fall of 2004.

Cover photo: Texas Medical Center—home to 41 medical institutions, countless individual employees, and the 465 Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences students who because of their GSBS status have classrooms and laboratories located throughout.

Addition: In the issue of GSBSNEWS Summer 2003 Catherine Papasakelariou should be noted as receiving her Master of Science degree.



Dean's Notes

-Interdisciplinarity and GSBS-

I recently submitted an inter-institutional training grant as part of a Gulf Coast Consortium (GCC) effort to increase programs that merge the strengths of the major Houston area institutions in traditional biomedical sciences with emerging areas of computational biology and informatics. It was hectic and stressful, and could not have been done without the help of many people. However, it was exciting and stimulating as well, because it made me realize the tremendous opportunities we have to capitalize on the new National Institutes of Health (NIH) Roadmap initiatives for interdisciplinary training and research. (Some would also say it is beneficial for a dean to get direct exposure to problems faced by faculty, e.g., short notice and even shorter deadlines from granting agencies!)

NIH is very clear about what it means, and does *not* mean, by "interdisciplinary." As stated in the RFA to which I was responding, "...a multidisciplinary approach brings experts together from diverse disciplines to address collectively a common complex problem, *each from his or her unique perspective*. By contrast, an interdisciplinary approach is what results from the melding of two or more disciplines *to create a new science*. ...the Roadmap is focused on developing *new interdisciplinary approaches*, and therefore the *necessary interdisciplinary workforce*." (Italics are mine.) Parenthetically, this also made me wonder whether our current GSBS programs would be considered multi- or interdisciplinary by these definitions.

Whether or not one agrees with the Roadmap, its initiatives will be a critical source of support in the coming decade, and institutions that cannot compete successfully for these funds will almost certainly falter. At the same time, interdisciplinary programs pose very real organizational and administrative difficulties, especially for health-related institutions that are organized along disciplinary lines for valid reasons. In terms of training programs, the GSBS provides a unique and valuable means to compete for interdisciplinary training funds without limiting opportunities for traditional support or disrupting the organizational structures of our parent institutions. We have a significant advantage over many institutions in this regard, and it seems both logical and wise to try to capitalize on it.

What is required is a modest level of institutional support for interdisciplinary programs, primarily to support the organizational and operational efforts of the faculty organizers and leaders, plus a modest safety net, if needed, for trainees during the occasional funding hiatus. This support is essential, but it would be self-defeating to take the needed funds from existing programs (that may themselves be under-funded these days) since strong interdisciplinary programs are built upon quality disciplinary ones. To be successful, interdisciplinary training programs must also be chosen to mirror the interdisciplinary research priorities of our parent institutions. This 'mirror' creates the synergy that is essential, if either is to succeed in the current financial climate. Seeking support and mechanisms (both internally and externally) to build strong interdisciplinary programs has become one of my priorities as Dean, and I hope many of you will join this effort in the near future.

Best regards,

Entering Students 2003 - 2004

Merideth Addicott

Ph.D. *Neuroscience*

B.A. 05/01/03 Macalester College

Christopher Alma

Ph.D. *Molecular Pathology*

B.S. 12/05/99 University of
Technology-Sydney

Rebecca Bishop

Ph.D. *Microbiology and Molecular
Genetics*

B.A. 05/12/01 Southern Ill University at
Carbondale

Kelly Blehm

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.S. 08/01/03 Northeastern Oklahoma
State University

Nicole Bohnenstiehl

Ph.D. *Human and Molecular Genetics*

B.S. 05/01/03 St. Louis University

Maryam Boseman

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.S. 05/10/03 Dillard University

William Bradley

Ph.D. *Medical Physics*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Texas at
San Antonio

Kristen Brower

M.S. *Microbiology and Molecular
Genetics*

M.Ed. 12/16/00 Hardin Simmons
University

Blake Cannon

S.M.S. *Medical Physics*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Georgia

Carrie Capps

Ph.D. *Cell and Regulatory Biology*

B.S. 05/01/01 Baylor University

Hao Chang

Ph.D. *Toxicology*

M.S. 07/01/03 Medical Center of Fudan
University

Violeta Chavez

Ph.D. *Microbiology and Molecular
Genetics*

B.S. 07/01/03 University of Texas at
El Paso

Haoyi Chen

Ph.D. *Human and Molecular Genetics*

B.S. 07/01/02 Fudan University

Mingming Chen

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.S. 07/01/03 Wuhan Institute of
Virology

Xiaoyun Cheng

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.S. 07/01/03 Fudan University

Dong-Joo Cheon

Ph.D. *Molecular Pathology*

M.S. 02/01/02 Seoul National University

Kyucheol Cho

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.S. 02/01/00 Korea University

Chao-Kai Chou

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.S. 06/01/98 National Cheng Kung
University

Dawn Christianson

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.S. 12/01/99 Northern Arizona
University

Jennifer Colby

Ph.D. *Environmental and Molecular
Carcinogenesis*

M.S. 05/01/94 York University

Mandi Corenblum

M.S. *Human and Molecular Genetics*

B.S. 06/01/01 California State
University-Long Beach

Wilfredo Cosme-Blanco

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Puerto Rico
Mayaguez Campus

Amy Courtney

Ph.D. *Immunology*

B.S. 05/01/03 Texas A&M University-
College Station

Scott Davidson

S.M.S. *Medical Physics*

B.S. 05/01/89 University of Missouri

Tian Ding

Ph.D. *Molecular Pathology*

M.S. 06/01/03 Fudan University

Melanie Dujka

Ph.D. *Immunology*

B.S.N. 05/01/01 Baylor University

Sarah Dunlap

Ph.D. *Human and Molecular Genetics*

B.S. 05/01/03 Texas A&M University-
College Station

Jheri Dupart

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of New Orleans

Omar Duramad

Ph.D. *Immunology*

B.S. 06/11/99 University of California at
San Diego

Hatice Duzkale

Ph.D. *Human and Molecular Genetics*

M.P.H. 12/01/02 The University of
Texas-Houston

Jaymie Estrella

Ph.D. *Virology and Gene Therapy*

B.S. 03/01/03 California State
University-San Bernardino

Tiffany Evans

M.S. *Pharmacology*

B.S. 05/01/02 Hampton University

Brett Ewald

Ph.D. *Pharmacology*

B.S. 05/01/03 Villanova University

Qi Gao

Ph.D. *Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology*

B.S. 06/01/02 Fudan University

Patrick Gibney

Ph.D. *Microbiology and Molecular
Genetics*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Northern
Iowa

Megan Grove

M.S. *Human and Molecular Genetics*

B.S. 05/17/97 Stephen F. Austin State
University

Lei Guo

Ph.D. *Neuroscience*

M.S. 06/01/02 Zhejiang University

Ruifeng Guo

Ph.D. *Environmental and Molecular Carcinogenesis*

M.S. 07/01/03 Zhengzhou University

Feng-Ju Huang

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.S. 06/01/01 National Tsing Hua University

Lulu Huang

Ph.D. *Microbiology and Molecular Genetics*

M.S. 07/01/03 Nanjing University

Maosheng Huang

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.S. 07/01/93 Shanghai Medical University

Sonia Java Moghaddam

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.S. 06/25/03 Eastern Michigan University

Zhiliang Jia

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.S. 07/01/00 Ocean University of Qingdao

Yingjun Jiang

Ph.D. *Human and Molecular Genetics*

B.S. 07/01/02 Fudan University

Yuhong Jiang

Ph.D. *Environmental and Molecular Carcinogenesis*

M.S. 07/01/99 Henan Medical University

Jason Jones

M.S. *Virology and Gene Therapy*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Texas at Austin

Celestine Kan

Ph.D. *Molecular Pathology*

B.S. 05/01/03 Southwestern University

Andy Kazama

Ph.D. *Neuroscience*

B.S. 05/01/00 Davidson College

Shannan Kilpatrick

Ph.D. *Cell and Regulatory Biology*

B.S. 05/01/01 Hardin Simmons University

Andrea Lafont

Ph.D. *Human and Molecular Genetics*

B.S. 05/01/03 Stonehill College

Charles Landen

M.S. *Cancer Biology*

M.D. 05/01/98 University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Sabine Lange

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Western Ontario

John Latham

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.A. 05/01/03 Kansas State University

Heung Kyu Lee

Ph.D. *Immunology*

M.S. 08/01/98 Yonsei University

Jennifer Lemoine

S.M.S. *Genetic Counseling*

B.S. 05/01/99 University of North Texas

Qiang Li

Ph.D. *Cell Biology*

M.S. 07/01/03 Medical College of Fudan University

Ying Li

Ph.D. *Virology and Gene Therapy*

M.S. 07/01/03 Tianjin Medical University

Wei qin Lu

Ph.D. *Immunology*

M.S. 08/12/99 University of Texas HSC-Houston GSBS

Vivienne Marrero-Bauza

Ph.D. *Microbiology and Molecular Genetics*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Campus

Evelyn McClendon

Ph.D. *Neuroscience*

M.S. 12/05/86 University of Texas HSC-Houston GSBS

Adam Melancon

Ph.D. *Medical Physics*

B.S. 05/01/03 Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge

Claudia Miller

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.S. 05/01/03 University of Texas HSC-Houston GSBS

Rachel Moulton

M.S. *Virology and Gene Therapy*

B.S. 05/01/03 Drake University

Nancy Nabils

M.S. *Reproductive Biology*

B.A. 12/01/02 Baylor University

Jayaganesh Natarajan

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.S. 08/01/03 Cleveland State University

Christopher Nelson

Ph.D. *Medical Physics*

M.S. 05/01/03 East Carolina University

Catherine Nguyen

Ph.D. *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*

B.S. 08/16/00 University of Houston - Main

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Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.D. 09/01/95 Carol Davila University of Medicine

Laura Nolden

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B.S. 12/01/02 University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

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B.S. 05/01/02 Colorado School of Mines

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Ph.D. *Microbiology and Molecular Genetics*

M.S. 08/07/99 Southwest Texas State University

Dustin Ragan

Ph.D. *Medical Physics*

B.A. 05/01/03 Trinity University

Melissa Ramirez

Ph.D. *Molecular Biology*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Texas at El Paso

Gary Riefler

Ph.D. *Neuroscience*

B.A. 05/01/01 Rutgers, State University of New Jersey,

Nilsa Rivera Del Valle

M.S. *Pharmacology*

B.S. 05/30/01 International American University of Puerto

Julie Robertson

Ph.D. *Immunology*

B.S. 05/01/03 Texas A&M University-College Station

Cherie Roche

Ph.D. *Immunology*

B.S. 05/01/03 McNeese State University

Georgialina Rodriguez

Ph.D. *Molecular Biology*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Texas at El Paso

Katherine Schultz

Ph.D. *Pharmacology*

B.S. 05/01/03 Texas A&M University-College Station

Crystal Seaman

Ph.D. *Human and Molecular Genetics*

B.S. 12/01/95 Baylor University

Nancy Seibert

Ph.D. *Immunology*

B.S. 12/19/98 Texas A&M University-College Station

Jingmin Shu

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.S. 07/01/98 Beijing Medical University

Tamara Solomon

S.M.S. *Genetic Counseling*

B.S. 01/01/01 University of New Mexico

Hye Won Song

Ph.D. *Genes and Development*

M.S. 02/01/01 Yonsei University

Sankara Narayanan Srinivasan

Ph.D. *Biochemistry*

B.S. 06/01/03 Anna University

Robert Chess Stetson

Ph.D. *Neuroscience*

B.A. 06/01/01 Harvard University

Laura Sundberg

Ph.D. *Neuroscience*

B.S. 12/21/02 Baylor University

Dunyaporn Trachootham

Ph.D. *Molecular Pathology*

D.D.S. 03/08/01 Mahidol University

Cynthia Trotter

S.M.S. *Genetic Counseling*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Arizona

Jui-chuan Tseng

M.S. *Pharmacology*

B.S. 08/01/02 Baylor University

Vanessa Vazquez

Ph.D. *Virology and Gene Therapy*

B.S. 05/01/03 University of Central Oklahoma

Gabriel Villares

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.S. 05/01/99 St. Michael's College

Li Wang

Ph.D. *Molecular Pathology*

M.S. 07/01/03 Tongji Medical College

Yuan Wang

Ph.D. *Biochemistry*

B.S. 07/01/03 Fudan University

Regina Weaks

Ph.D. *Cell and Regulatory Biology*

M.S. 08/13/99 Texas A&M University-College Station

Dongbin Xu

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

M.S. 07/01/03 Fudan University

Yiyi Yan

M.S. *Virology and Gene Therapy*

B.S. 06/01/00 Shanghai Second Medical University

Jun Yang

Ph.D. *Cancer Biology*

B.S. 07/01/01 Fudan University

Rui Zhu

Ph.D. *Genes and Development*

B.Sc. 07/01/02 Xiamen University

GSA Officers for 2003-2004

(Pictured left to right)

Aileen Frayna, President

Katie Roeder, Vice President

Rose Reisenauer, Secretary

News & Events



Orientation Friday Afternoon Club

Scenes atop the Hilton Hotel for Orientation Week's finale for incoming students, 2003-2004



Student-Faculty softball and Volleyball games: Annual jocks' rush for faculty and students alike — was the score 17-3 or 3-17? It depends to whom you're talking. . . dugout, volleyball court, or home plate hitters.



GSBS Adopt-A-Block Crew honoring the Graduate School with their labors: left to right, Susan Ritter, Marissa Shrader, Geoff Kannan, Amy Whitetree, Meghan Minard, and Hannah Wingate. Thank you students!



New Face at the Graduate School

We welcome new staff assistant, Gloria "Lily" D'Agostino, to the front desk at the GSBS. Originally from the Phillipines, she received her B.S. in Marketing from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. Most recently she comes to us from Eubanks Group Architects, and previously from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in the Office of International Affairs.

Distinguished Alumnus 2003



Eugene W. Gerner, Ph.D.

Professor, Cell Biology and Anatomy, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
Director, Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPOR) in GI Cancer
The University of Arizona, Arizona Cancer Center, Tucson AZ 85724

Evolving Strategies in the War on Cancer 1971-2003

I started my graduate training at the GSBS in the fall of 1971, the same year that Richard Nixon signed the legislation declaring "The War on Cancer." Having come from the University of Wisconsin at Madison with a major in physics, my intention was to obtain a doctoral degree in medical physics and work in radiotherapy physics. In 1971, cancer research was heavily oriented toward cancer treatment research.

During my visit, Ray Meyn reminded me that I was very focused on my intention to pursue a career in medical physics when I first arrived at GSBS. GSBS policy mandated that students do at least one research rotation in an area other than their declared major. I decided to get this requirement behind me as soon as possible, and "bluntly" approached Ray and his former postdoctoral mentor Ron Humphrey, in whose lab Ray was beginning to establish his own independent career, with my intentions. Ron politely suggested I seek to do the "required rotation" with one of Ron's former post-docs, Sam Barranco, who had recently set up a lab in the surgery section headed by Marv Romsdahl. During this rotation, I had the opportunity to work with human melanoma cell lines, which had been established by Romsdahl and learn cell cycle synchronization techniques. (It was a surprise and a pleasure to speak with Marv again at my research seminar during my recent visit to Houston.) I had some difficulty with the human melanoma cells, so Barranco put me to work evaluating the effects of a new drug from Italy (Adriamycin). By the end of the rotation, I was hooked on cancer biology. Alfred Knudson was Dean of the GSBS during that time, and lectured in our cell biology course on his pioneering work on the genetic basis of retinoblastomas, which led to his "2-hit model" of carcinogenesis. Except for one subsequent and previously-scheduled research rotation, I never went back to medical physics.

Ron Humphrey finally agreed to take me on as a rotation student and I continued in his lab for my dissertation. My work focused on the effects of ionizing radiation on DNA replication and nonhistone chromatin protein synthesis. Life in the Humphrey lab was both enjoyable and productive. The experience provided the foundation for one of Ron's many truisms, that "science is not a job, science is a way of life." I am now hearing this from my own students! It was an honor to have several of my former supervisory committee members present at the alumni dinner, including Ron Humphrey, Ray Meyn, Roger Hewitt, and Allen Ansevin.

My "evolution" continued in 1974, when I joined the then six year old College of Medicine at The University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, as an assistant professor in the Department of Radiology. I was extremely fortunate to obtain NIH funding within my first year in Arizona to continue my research on the effects of x-rays on the mammalian cell cycle. I turned most of my attention to studies of normal cell cycle controls. This decision resulted in studies that ultimately led into our current work investigating the mechanisms by which genetic risk factors influence intestinal carcinogenesis. However, from 1974-1985, most of my research activities were devoted to efforts to develop novel strategies of cancer treatment.

Discouraged by exceedingly slow progress in this area, I seriously reassessed the direction of my research. As depicted in the cartoon (and with all credit to the creators of the *Wizard of ID*), when you're in a race and discover you're all alone, you're "...either leading or ...lost."



I decided to think about alternate ways of addressing the cancer problem, and decided to focus more of my efforts on ways to prevent cancers, especially the most common types of cancer. Several groups were beginning to make significant progress on the genetic basis of colon cancer, one of the four numerically most important types of cancer in the United States. Beginning in the late 1980s, my colleagues and I began applying some of our research findings to clinical trials of prevention of especially colon and other cancers of the gastrointestinal tract.

In 2001, our group at the Arizona Cancer Center was awarded a grant from the US National Cancer Institute to support a Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) in Gastrointestinal Cancer. The goal of our SPORE is to prevent or cure gastrointestinal cancers *in the foreseeable future*. Information about our program is available on the internet at http://www.azcc.arizona.edu/gi_spore/. Our research efforts focus on developing methods to prevent gastrointestinal cancers, such as colon cancer, or detect them at very early stages when they are most treatable. These efforts include attempts to use conventional approaches, such as colonoscopy, more widely. Our efforts include studies to more effectively assess risk, using genetic testing approaches, and both biological and physical methods to enhance screening and surveillance procedures.

We are also developing novel methods of cancer treatment for those cancers that we don't prevent or detect early. Finally, we are working with cancer survivors and lay advocates for cancer survivorship to accomplish several goals.

Andrew von Eschenbach, the Director of the National Cancer Institute and a former M.D. Anderson staff member, has outlined a "vision, not a dream" for the national cancer program in the future. That vision is to "eliminate suffering and death due to cancer" by the year 2015. The realistic side of this vision is that it does not promise a cure to cancer. Rather, it outlines a more realistic approach to cancer in 2003 that takes advantage of advances in basic cancer biology and clinical oncology. Methods to enhance detection of cancer risk or precancers need to be further developed and widely applied. This strategy has reduced incidence and mortality due to cancers of the uterine/cervix. Methods of cancer prevention have the potential of reducing or delaying development in individuals with elevated risk of invasive cancers. Finally, cytotoxic therapies are effective in controlling several epithelial cancers, including colon cancers. A current challenge is developing effective treatments for those patients with advanced cancers that do not respond to currently available therapies. A coordinated program of risk assessment, screening and surveillance, prevention (which includes the concept of "treating" not yet invasive intraepithelial neoplasia), treatment of invasive cancer and then management of patients after therapy has the potential of achieving the goal put forth by von Eschenbach. I am optimistic that we may be able to achieve this goal for colon cancer.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge collaborations with many colleagues since I joined the faculty at The University of Arizona, especially Tim Bowden, Anne Cress and Jesse Martinez, and recognize the many graduate students and postdoctoral trainees that have contributed to the lab since 1974.

Trainees: 1974 – 2003

Ph.D. Graduates

Anne Cress	David Wu
Michele Vinocour	Margaret Tome
Gary Sertich	Dale Woolridge
James Glass	Kathryn Lawson
Randall WidELITZ	Michele Parker
Robert Donaldson	Kimberly Fultz
Roberta Murphey	Naveen Babbar
Xiaozhen Xie	

Postdoctoral Fellows

Max Costa	Steven Erdman
Terence Herman	Terry Kurtts
David Fuller	Natalia Ignatenko
Steve Carper	David Gannett
Paul Harari	Tom Tsang
Jay Boyle	Ning Qu
John Buatti	Nick Hatton
Margaretha Wallon	Hagit Yerushalmi

M.S. Graduates

Jungren Chen	Karl Newell
Kikki Klomp	Hui Zhang
Richard Shassetz	

Alumni Retro Reunion 2003





GSBS 40th Anniversary

Valentine Goodrich-
 Boving
 Joan Breuer-McHam
 Patricia Castro
 Joya Chandra
 Paul Chiao
 Candice Clements
 Mike Cook
 Rena D'Souza
 Mark Emmett
 Suzanne Fuqua
 Thomas Gegeny
 Gene Gerner
 Thomas Goka
 Maureen Goode
 Rick Hajek
 Dianne Hammond
 Peng Huang
 Ann Killary
 Dorrie Lamb
 Steve Lott
 Kathryn Louie
 Suneeta Mahagaokar
 Jennifer Newcomb-
 Fernandez
 Mustafa Ozen
 Jackie Peltier Horn
 Peter Seferian
 Ben Thomas
 Ling Tian
 Brenda Whaley
 Barbara Williams
 Kendra Woods
 Chundong Yu
 Dihua Yu
 Mike Yuan

In Memory

Alfonso Zermeno, Ph.D.
 Bradley Schwab, Ph.D.

2003 GSBS Membership Committee Report

Members Reappointed With Commendation

Dr. H. N. Ananthaswamy
Dr. Jocelyne Bachevalier
Dr. John H. Byrne
Dr. Claudio J. Conti
Dr. Benoit de Crombrughe
Dr. David Hewett-Emmett
Dr. William H. Klein
Dr. Kevin A. Morano
Dr. John L. Spudich
Dr. M. Neal Waxham
Dr. Wei Zhang

New Regular Members

Kenneth Aldape

Associate Professor
Pathology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., University of California-
San Francisco, 1991
Research interests: role of oncogenes in
behavior of human cancer; primary
human brain tumors; molecular genetic
aberrations in cancer; molecular marker
studies

Ananth V. Annapragada

Associate Professor
UT-Houston School of Health
Information Sciences
Ph.D., University of Michigan
(Ann Arbor), 1989
Research interests: targeted drug delivery;
respiratory drug delivery; computational
methods in biomedicine; targeted
delivery of contrast agents for various
imaging modalities

Keith A. Baggerly

Assistant Professor
Biostatistics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Rice University, 1994
Research interests: proteomics (mass
spectrometry); microarrays; serial analysis
of gene expression

Rajesh Balkrishnan

Associate Professor
Management, Policy and Community
Health
UT-Houston School of Public Health
Ph.D., University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill, 1999
Research interests: health services research;
health outcomes evaluation and assess-
ment; applied statistical methodology;
quality of care; prevention effectiveness
research

James A. Bankson

Assistant Professor
Imaging Physics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2001
Research interests: magnetic resonance
imaging; fast imaging; quantitative imag-
ing; parallel imaging; system engineering;
receiver coil and phased array detector
design; signal processing

Michael C. Braun

Assistant Professor
Institute of Molecular Medicine
UT Health Science Center at Houston
M.D., University of Pennsylvania School
of Medicine, 1990
Research interests: immune mediated
renal disease; glomerulonephritis; comple-
ment biology; anaphylatoxins; adaptive
immunity; factor H deficiency; lupus
nephritis

Scott B. Cantor

Associate Professor
Biostatistics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Harvard University, 1991
Research interests: medical decision
making; clinical decision analysis; cost-
effectiveness analysis; psychology of deci-
sion making; technology assessment;
cancer prevention

David M. Eagleman

Assistant Professor
Neurobiology and Anatomy
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, 1998
Research interests: perception of time and
the timing of neural signals; neural basis
of consciousness; computational proper-
ties of human decision making

Linda S. Elting

Associate Professor
Biostatistics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Dr.P.H., UT-Houston School of Public
Health, 1988
Research interests: outcomes and costs
of cancer screening, treatment and
supportive care; access to cancer care;

disparities in cancer care; health policy;
health care quality

Michael E. Fant

Associate Professor
Pediatrics
UT-Houston Medical School
M.D., Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 1980
Research interests: cellular mechanisms
regulating placental development; mesen-
chymal-trophoblast signaling interactions
important in placental growth and
function; peptide growth factors regulat-
ing placental growth; trophoblast-specific
genes in placental development

Danielle A. Garsin

Assistant Professor
Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Harvard University, 1999
Research interests: host/pathogen inter-
actions; virulence determinants of *E.*
faecalis, *C. elegans* immune response

Raymond J. Grill

Assistant Professor
Neurosurgery
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., University of Cincinnati, 1995
Research interests: spinal cord injury;
trauma; vascular repair; inflammation;
axonal regeneration; extracellular matrix;
growth factors; gene therapy; functional
recovery

Seiji Kondo

Associate Professor
Neurosurgery
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Ph.D., Kyoto University, 1984, 1992
Research interests: translational research;
glioma; apoptosis; autophagy; molecular
targeting; telomerase; gene therapy

Scott D. Lane

Assistant Professor
Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Auburn University, 1995
Research interests: human psychophar-
macology; decision theory; impulsive and
aggressive behavior; substance abuse;
conduct/antisocial personality disorders

Renhao Li

Assistant Professor
Center for Membrane Biology
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 1999
Research interests: membrane protein
structure and function; protein-
protein interaction; receptor oligomeriza-
tion; molecular mechanism of signal
transduction

Yong-Jun Liu

Professor and Chairman
Immunology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Norman Bethune University, 1984
Ph.D., Birmingham University, School
of Medicine, 1989
Research interests: innate immunity; den-
dritic cell biology; T cell biology; cytokine
biology; vaccine for cancers and viral infec-
tious diseases

Michael Lorenz

Assistant Professor
Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Duke University, 1997
Research interests: host-pathogen
interactions; medical mycology; fungal
genetics and biology; infectious diseases

Zhimin (James) Lu

Assistant Professor
Neuro-Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Ph.D., The City University of
New York, 1998
Research interests: signal transduction;
oncogenesis; tumor cell invasion and
metastasis; ubiquitination

Qing Ma

Assistant Professor
Blood and Marrow Transplantation
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Thomas Jefferson University, 1995
Research interests: chemokine and
cytokine biology; transplant immunology;
cancer biology; hematopoiesis; stem cell
biology

Li Mao

Associate Professor
Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical
Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Nanjing Medical University, 1982
Research interests: molecular alterations
in multistep tumorigenesis; regulation of
DNA methylation; regulation of alterna-
tive RNA splicing; clinical applications of
molecular alterations in cancer risk assess-
ment, diagnosis, classification, and
treatment

Bartlett D. Moore

Associate Professor
Pediatrics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Houston, 1985
Research interests: neuropsychology;
neurofibromatosis; pediatric cancer

Firas Mourtada

Assistant Professor
Radiation Physics

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, 1997
Research interests: brachytherapy;
image-guided radiation therapy; Monte
Carlo modeling; intravascular radiation
therapy; intraoperative high dose rate
brachytherapy; beta-ray source dosimetry

F. Xiao-Feng Qin

Assistant Professor
Immunology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., The Rockefeller University, 1998
Research interests: immune signaling;
gene regulation; RNA interference;
hematopoietic stem cell biology

Blanca I. Restrepo

Assistant Professor
Biological Sciences
UT-Houston School of Public Health
(Brownsville)
Ph.D., UT Health Science Center at San
Antonio, 1994
Research interests: tuberculosis pathogen-
esis; human tuberculosis; guinea pig;
pathogenesis; early infection; gene expres-
sion; cytokine expression; disease
transmission; translational research

Stephen H. Safe

Professor
Center for Environmental and Genetic
Medicine
Texas A&M University-Institute for
Biosciences and Technology
D.Phil, Oxford University, 1965
Research interests: regulation of nuclear
hormone receptors; anticancer drug action;
PPAR γ agonists; selective Ah receptor
modulators; gene expression; molecular
mechanisms of action

Ya-Chen Tina Shih

Associate Professor
Biostatistics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Stanford University, 1997
Research interests: statistical/economet-
ric methods in health services research;
Bayesian methods in economic evalua-
tions; health inequality in health care
access and utilization

Harel Shouval

Assistant Professor
Neurobiology and Anatomy
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Brown University, 1994
Research interests: theoretical studies of
molecular, cellular, and system level
substrates of learning memory and
development

Jack W. Smith

Professor and Interim Dean
UT-School of Health Information
Sciences
M.D., West Virginia University Medical
School, 1977
Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1986
Research interests: artificial intelligence;
computer security systems; health
informatics; HIPPA; human-computer
interaction; medical decision-support;
cybernetics; computer and information
sciences; informatics; pathology

Anil K. Sood

Associate Professor
Gynecologic Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., University of North Carolina-
Chapel Hill, 1991
Research interests: regulation of vascular
development in cancer; receptor tyrosine
kinase regulation; invasion; metastasis

James M. Stark

Associate Professor
Pediatrics
UT-Houston Medical School
M.D., Ph.D., Case Western Reserve
University School of Medicine, 1983, 1982
Research interests: virus-induced airway
injury; airway inflammation; respiratory
infection; molecular virology; pulmonary
defenses; pulmonary immunology;
transcriptional regulation

Uwe Titt

Assistant Professor
Radiation Physics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Johann Wolfgang Goethe
Universitat, 1994
Research interests: nuclear physics;
neutron/proton physics; Monte Carlo
simulations

Jonathan C. Trent, II

Assistant Professor
Sarcoma Medical Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Ph.D., UT-Houston Medical
School/GSBS, 1995
Research interests: growth factor receptor
signaling; tyrosine kinase inhibitors;
apoptosis; sarcoma; developmental
therapeutics; phase I and phase II clinical
trials

Srdan Verstovsek

Assistant Professor
Leukemia
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D./Ph.D., University of Zagreb School
of Medicine/University of Zagreb Faculty
of Sciences, 1992, 1994

Research interests: experimental therapeutics; drug development; mechanism of drug activity; cancer biology; molecular pathology; pharmacology

Zhengxin Wang

Assistant Professor
Cancer Biology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Peking University, 1990
Research interests: mechanisms of action of androgen receptor in the regulation of prostate-specific gene expression with an emphasis on how deregulation leads to prostate cancer

Feng Wang-Johanning

Associate Professor
Veterinary Sciences
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Ph.D., Tianjin Medical College, 1983, 1987
Research interests: human endogenous retroviruses; human papillomavirus; early detection diagnosis and immunotherapy of solid tumors including breast, prostate, ovarian cancers and cervical cancer; tumor vaccines; viral vectors

Judith K. Wolf

Associate Professor
Gynecologic Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1986
Research interests: gynecologic cancer; gene therapy; translational research; targeted therapy

Laura L. Worth

Assistant Professor
Pediatrics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Ph.D., UT-Houston GSBS, 1990
Research interests: IL-12; gene therapy; angiogenesis

Willy R. Wriggers

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston School of Health Information Sciences
Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1998
Research interests: molecular modeling; electron microscopy; image processing; biophysics; structural bioinformatics

Kenneth K. Wu

Internal Medicine-Hematology
UT-Houston Medical School
M.D., National Taiwan University Medical School, 1966
Ph.D., University of London, 1997
Research interests: gene expression; signal transduction; eicosanoid biosynthesis; nitric oxide biosynthesis; molecular genetics of thrombosis

Li Zhang

Assistant Professor
Biostatistics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1995
Research interests: computational genome biology; gene expression microarray data modeling; networks of gene expression regulation

Ming Zhang

Assistant Professor
Biomathematics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Rice University, 2000
Research interests: docking; protein folding; computer-assisted drug design; mathematical modeling and algorithms

Chengming Zhu

Assistant Professor
Immunology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, 1997
Research interests: mouse models for lymphocyte development; mechanism and regulation of programmed and general DNA recombination/repair; genomic stability; and tumorigenesis in the lymphoid system

New Associate Members

Xuelin Huang

Assistant Professor
Biostatistics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Michigan, 2002
Research interests: survival analysis; longitudinal studies; statistical genetics; bioinformatics; clinical trial design

Yuan Ji

Assistant Professor
Biostatistics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2003
Research interests: microarrays; Bayesian inference; mixture models

Eugenia Mileykovskaya

Assistant Professor
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Moscow State University, 1976
Research interests: mitochondrial and bacterial membrane structure and function; bioenergetics; lipid-protein interaction; membrane dynamics; membrane domains; red-ox supercomplexes; bacterial division machinery; amphitropic proteins; phospholipids

Pramod N. Nehete

Assistant Professor
Veterinary Sciences
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Pune (India), 1989
Research interests: virology; immunology; carcinogen-mediated modulation of cellular immune responses

Sarah Jane Noblin

Clinical Instructor
Obstetrics and Gynecology - Genetics
UT-Houston Medical School
M.S., UT-Houston GSBS, 1999
Research interests: genetic counseling; prenatal

Susan K. Peterson

Assistant Professor
Behavioral Science
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., UT-Houston School of Public Health, 2001
Research interests: psychosocial and behavioral aspects of genetic counseling and testing for hereditary cancer syndromes; cancer screening and early detection behaviors in high-risk populations



Dean George Stancel thanks Kenneth Hogstrom, Ph.D., for his distinguished service as Faculty President during 2002-2003.



Pierre McCrea, Ph.D., (right) receives thanks as outgoing Program Director for Genes and Development from Faculty President, Jack Waymire, Ph.D.

Faculty Honors

U. T. Health Science Center Faculty Honors Convocation

President's Scholar Award for Excellence in Research

Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D.
John Spudich, Ph.D.

2002-2003 Recipients of International and National Honors in Research

Rajesh Balkrishnan, Ph.D.
Andrew Bean, Ph.D.
L. Maximilian Buja, M.D.
John Byrne, Ph.D.
Gilbert Castro, Ph.D.
Richard Clark, Ph.D.
Rena D'Souza, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Pramod Dash, Ph.D.
Ruth Heidelberger, M.D., Ph.D.
Diane Hickson-Bick, Ph.D.
Theresa Koehler, Ph.D.
Bruce Kone, M.D.
Katherine Loveland, Ph.D.
Kevin Morano, Ph.D.
Andrew Morris, Ph.D.

Ferid Murad, M.D., Ph.D.
Steven Norris, Ph.D.
Stanley Schultz, M.D.
John Spudich, Ph.D.
Ambro van Hoof, Ph.D.
Willy Wriggers, Ph.D.

2002-2003 Recipients of International and National Honors in Teaching

Jeffrey Actor, Ph.D.
Hope Northrup, M.D.
Gary Rosenfeld, Ph.D.
Mark Wong, D.D.S.

2002-2003 National Honors in Clinical Service

Gailen Marshall, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Hope Northrup, M.D.
Frank Yatsu, M.D.

2002-2003 Recipients of International and National Honors in Community Service

Millicent Goldschmidt, Ph.D.
Ted Pate, Ph.D.
John Powers, Ph.D.
Peter Triolo, D.D.S.

2002-2003 Outstanding Achievements in Teaching

Norman Weisbridt, Ph.D.

John P. McGovern Teaching Award 2002

Henry Strobel, Ph.D.

John P. McGovern Teaching Award 2003

Michelle Barton, Ph.D.

Appointments to Endowed Positions

Sharon Dent, Ph.D.
Steven Norris, Ph.D.

U. T. M. D. Anderson Faculty Honors Convocation

Faculty Scholar Awards

Kim-Anh Do, Ph.D.
Razelle Kurzrock, M.D.

Faculty Achievement Awards

Miles Wilkinson, Ph.D.
Richard Behringer, Ph.D.

Endowed Distinguished University Chairs

Stanley Hamilton, M.D.

Endowed Distinguished Chairs

Isaiah Fidler, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Armand Glassman, M.D.
William Klein, Ph.D.
Yong-Jun Liu, M.D., Ph.D.
William Plunkett, Ph.D.
Raphael Pollock, M.D., Ph.D.
Jack Roth, M.D.
Margaret Spitz, M.D.

Endowed Chairs

Ralph Arlinghaus, Ph.D.
Donald Berry, Ph.D.
Benoit de Crombrughe, M.D.
John DiGiovani, Ph.D.
Emil J Freireich, M.D.
Ellen Gritz, Ph.D.
Mien-Chie Hung, Ph.D.
Reuben Lotan, Ph.D.
Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D.
Louise Strong, M.D.
W. K. Alfred Yung, M.D.

Endowed Distinguished Professorships

Richard Behringer, Ph.D.
Laurence Etkin, Ph.D.
Walter Hittelman, Ph.D.
Kenneth Hogstrom, Ph.D.
Rakesh Kumar, Ph.D.
Robert Newman, Ph.D.

Endowed Professorships

Christopher Amos, Ph.D.
Honnava Ananthaswamy, Ph.D.
Michael Andreeff, M.D., Ph.D.
Robert Chamberlain, Ph.D.
Claudio Conti, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Susan Fischer, Ph.D.
Eugenie Kleinerman, M.D.
Marcus Kuo, Ph.D.
Sue-Hwa Lin, Ph.D.
Guillermina Lozano, Ph.D.
Marvin Meistrich, Ph.D.
Raymond Meyn, Jr., Ph.D.
Luka Milas, M.D., Ph.D.
Radhe Mohan, Ph.D.
Alan Schroit, Ph.D.
Michael Siciliano, Ph.D.
Elizabeth Travis, Ph.D.
Cheryl Walker, Ph.D.
Edward Yeh, M.D.

Distinguished Service Awards

Dennis Johnston, Ph.D.
Jerald Killion, Ph.D.
J. Arly Nelson, Ph.D.

School Awards and Other Honors

Outstanding Faculty Awards as Commended by the GSBS Membership Committee

Ralph Arlinghaus, Ph.D.
Jocelyne Bachevalier, Ph.D.
Claudio Conti, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Jacqueline Hecht, Ph.D.
Edward Jackson, Ph.D.
Rodney Kellems, Ph.D.
Sue-Hwa Lin, Ph.D.
William Margolin, Ph.D.
David McConkey, Ph.D.
Pierre McCrea, Ph.D.
Roger O'Neil, Ph.D.
John Putkey, Ph.D.
Michael Siciliano, Ph.D.,
D.Sc. (Hon)
John Spudich, Ph.D.
Michael Van Dyke, Ph.D.
Dihua Yu, M.D., Ph.D.
Wei Zhang, Ph.D.

Dean's Excellence Awards

Jeffrey Actor, Ph.D.
Honnayara Ananthaswamy, Ph.D.
Ralph Arlinghaus, Ph.D.
Jocelyne Bachevalier, Ph.D.
Richard Behringer, Ph.D.
Michael Blackburn, Ph.D.
Louvenia Carter-Dawson, Ph.D.
Robert Chamberlain, Ph.D.

Kun Sang Chang, Ph.D.
Stephen Daiger, Ph.D.
Benoit de Crombrughe,
M.D., Agrege
Sharon Dent, Ph.D.
Nicholas Donato, Ph.D.
Lei Dong, Ph.D.
P. C. Jackie Duke, Ph.D.
Lawrence Etkin, Ph.D.
Isiah Fidler, D.V.M., Ph.D.
David Followill, Ph.D.
Richard Ford, M.D., Ph.D.
Ralph Freedman, M.D., Ph.D.
Emil J Freireich, M.D., D.Sc.
(Hon.)
Jeffrey Frost, Ph.D.
Gary Gallick, Ph.D.
Peter Gascoyne, Ph.D.
Paul Gershon, Ph.D.
David Goodrich, Ph.D.
Elizabeth Grimm, Ph.D.
William Hanson, Ph.D.
John Hazle, Ph.D.
Jacqueline Hecht, Ph.D.
Dale Hereld, M.D., Ph.D.
Kenneth Hogstrom, Ph.D.
Magnus Hook, Ph.D.
Peng Huang, M.D., Ph.D.
Mien-Chie Hung, Ph.D.
Geoffrey Ibbott, Ph.D.
Randy Johnson, Ph.D.
Dennis Johnston, Ph.D.

Rodney Kellems, Ph.D.
Robert Kirken, Ph.D.
William Klein, Ph.D.
Eugenie Kleinerman, M.D.
Razelle Kurzrock, M.D.
Lawrence Lachman, Ph.D.
Randy Legerski, Ph.D.
Chun Li, Ph.D.
Sue-Hwa Lin, Ph.D.
David Loose-Mitchell, Ph.D.
Gabriel Lopez-Berestein, M.D.
Reuben Lotan, Ph.D.
Stevan Marcus, Ph.D.
William Margolin, Ph.D.
Gailen Marshall, M.D., Ph.D.
James Martin, M.D., Ph.D.
Stephen Massey, Ph.D.
Joan Mastrobattista, M.D.
William Mattox, Ph.D.
David McConkey, Ph.D.
Pierre D. McCrea, Ph.D.
Timothy McDonnell, M.D., Ph.D.
Wallace McKeehan, Ph.D.
Jeanie McMillin, Ph.D.
Kapil Mehta, Ph.D.
Marvin Meistrich, Ph.D.
Raymond Meyn, Ph.D.
Dianna Milewicz, M.D., Ph.D.
Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D.
David Mitchell, Ph.D.
Manju Monga, M.D.
Craig Mullen, M.D., Ph.D.
Jeffrey Myers, M.D., Ph.D.
Lalitha Nagarajan, Ph.D.
J. Arly Nelson, Ph.D.
Wayne Newhauser, Ph.D.
Robert Newman, Ph.D.
Steven Norris, Ph.D.
Hope Northrup, M.D.
Catherine O'Brian, Ph.D.
Charles Patrick, Ph.D.
William Plunkett, Ph.D.
John Powers, Ph.D.
George Starkschall, Ph.D.
Stephen Ullrich, Ph.D.
Michael Van Dyke, Ph.D.
Cheryl Walker, Ph.D.
Audrey Wanger, Ph.D.
Stephanie Watowich, Ph.D.
M. Neal Waxham, Ph.D.
Jack Waymire, Ph.D.
George Weinstock, Ph.D.
Rick Wetsel, Ph.D.
Miles Wilkinson, Ph.D.
Keping Xie, M.D., Ph.D.
Dihua Yu, M.D., Ph.D.
Wei Zhang, Ph.D.
X. Joe Zhou, Ph.D.
Z. Hong Zhou, Ph.D.



Pierre D. McCrea, Ph.D. President-Elect of the Graduate School Faculty

Pierre McCrea, Ph.D., accepted his election to the presidency with energy and enthusiasm, continuing a path of service to graduate education through this important role. In 2004-2005, as the 34th president-elect of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Faculty, he will succeed current faculty president, Jack Waymire, Ph.D. Dr. McCrea is the chairman of the GSBS Executive Committee for 2003-2004. He is the past director of the Program in Genes and Development (2001-2003), and past chairman of the Academic Standards and Program Coordinating Committees.

In 1993 Dr. McCrea was named Assistant Professor and in 1999 Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. McCrea held the American Heart Association, Established Investigator Award 1999-2002, and the Kleberg Foundation Award 1996-2001. Dr. McCrea's academic credentials include A.B. in Biochemistry from Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME; M.Phil and Ph.D. in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale University, New Haven CT; and postdoctoral studies at the University of California at San Francisco and Sloan-Kettering Institute (NY). During that time he received fellowships from Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc., the NIH (Individual National Research Award), and the American Heart Association, California Affiliate.

Dr. McCrea is Principle Investigator for a National Institutes of Health RO1 Grant addressing novel developmental functions of the P120 and ARVCF catenins, and has additional interests in b-catenin and kidney tubule morphogenesis.

GSBS Awards



American Legion Auxiliary Fellows

Since 1971 the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Texas, has contributed more than \$985,000 in support of students doing cancer research. The money for this funding is raised through grass roots efforts across the state, and this special project, on behalf of The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston is the only one of its kind in the country. The awards are renewable to individuals throughout their doctoral process, and hence provide continuous funding for their research. Each American

Legion Auxiliary Fellow was presented with \$5,000. Seen here, scholars and the representatives from the American Legion Auxiliary, with ALA officers including Ms. Lynda Horton, president, front row third from left; Mr. Bob Walls, Department of Texas Commander, fourth from left; GSBS Dean, George Stancel, fifth from left; Ms. Nina Swink, immediate past-president next to Dr. Stancel.

Student

Gregory Aune
Jennifer Carew
Nathan Childress
Jennifer Cook
Geoffrey Kannan
Shreya Kant

Supervisory Professor

Dr. Zahid Siddik
Dr. Peng Huang
Dr. Isaac Rosen
Dr. Cheryl Walker
Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman
Dr. Jeffrey Moldrem

Student

Joanna Koch
Jon Lyons
Jason Mitchell
Steffan Nawrocki
Katherine Roeder
Kevin Spurgers

Supervisory Professor

Dr. Guillermina Lozano
Dr. Pierre McCrea
Dr. Bradley McIntyre
Dr. David McConkey
Dr. Jill Schumacher
Dr. Timothy McDonnell

R. W. (Bill) Butcher Achievement Award



The R. W. (Bill) Butcher Fund was established in 1977 and provides for these annual awards of \$2,000 each. The award is presented to a student who demonstrates excellence in research, has a commitment to a career in biomedical research and makes a professional contribution to the community or has faced a particular challenge. Shown here left to right, Dr. Butcher, 2003-2004 scholarship recipient, Greg Aune, Mrs. Joan Butcher, and Dr. Thomas Goka, Assistant Dean for Outreach and Minority Affairs.

Student

Greg Aune

Supervisory Professor

Dr. Zahid Siddik

Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Foundation Fellowship

The Cameron Foundation Fellowship provides \$10,000 to an exceptional GSBS student working in research fields related to Alzheimer's or cardiovascular disease. The \$10,000 gift is matched by GSBS in 2003-2004, giving total stipend support. The 2003-2004 recipient, Catherine Moya, left, is shown here with Ms. Diane Guiberteau, representative of the Cameron Foundation.



Student

Catherine Moya

Supervisory Professor

Dr. Renata Pasqualini



Barbara L. Kennedy Endowed Memorial Scholar

Established by the WINGS Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA), in 2003-2004, marks the second anniversary of the award named for the deceased member and sister, Barbara Kennedy, whose interest in the field of genetic counseling provided the focus for this honor. Here, GSBS student, Jamie Chance, front, with Ms. Rosemary Behrens, chapter president, second from left; Ms. Anne Kennedy, member and sister, third from left; Ms. Aimee Williams, and Ms. Cathy Wicklund, genetics counseling faculty.

Student

Jamie Chance

Supervisory Professor

Dr. Jacqueline Hecht

GSBS Awards

Alfred G. Knudson, Jr. Outstanding Dissertation Award



Named for the distinguished individual known for his landmark contributions to the field of genetics, Dr. Knudson was Dean and Professor of Medical Genetics at the GSBS from 1969-1976 as well as Associate Director of Education at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Established by the Faculty Senate, the \$1,000 award recognizes original research conducted by a student working toward a doctor of philosophy degree at The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston. The award also acknowledges the important scientific supervision that M. D. Anderson faculty members provide for GSBS students. Shown here, GSBS Dean, George Stancel presents the award to the 2003-2004 honoree:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Supervisory Professor</u>
Dr. John Kurland	Dr. Raymond Meyn

John P. McGovern GSBS Scientific Poster Competition

In its 22nd year, the McGovern Scientific Poster Competition now plays an integral part in The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Research Day. Awards are based on research excellence and presentation and were selected this year by a GSBS Faculty committee including Drs. Michael Braun, Joya Chandra, Francois X. Claret, Seth Corey, Qing Ma, Gailen Marshall, John Powers, Shrikanth Reddy, Subrata Sen, Ratna Vadlamudi, Kishore Wary, Duen-Hwa Yan. Top posters in each category receive \$400, \$300, and \$200 for First Place, Second Place and Third Place, respectively.

	<u>Student</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Supervisory Professor</u>
Master's	Jason Runyan	1 st	Dr. Pramod Dash
	John Lahad	2 nd	Dr. Gordon Mills
	Mehdi Esmaeilian	3 rd	Dr. Heidi Kaplan
Ph.D. Degree Pre-Candidacy Category	Raegan Hunt	1 st	Dr. C. S. Raman
	Dorothy Long	2 nd	Dr. Jonathan Ivins
	Terry Johnson	3 rd	Dr. Francois X. Claret
Ph.D. Degree Post-Candidacy Category	Hays Young	1 st	Dr. Michael Blackburn
	Jon Lyons	2 nd	Dr. Pierre McCrea
	Katherine Roeder	3 rd	Dr. Jill Schumacher

Presidents' Merit Scholars



Through generous funding from President James T. Willerson, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and President John Mendelsohn, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, recognition is given to advanced GSBS students who have demonstrated excellence in research. The applications are reviewed by a committee consisting of five past, present and future presidents of the Graduate Faculty. The 2003-2004 Presidents' Research Scholars who will each receive a cash award of \$5,000 are:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Supervisory Professor</u>
Sayeepriyadarshini Anakk	Dr. Henry Strobel
Si Wan Kim	Dr. Pierre McCrea
Dat Nghiem	Dr. Stephen Ullrich
Mei Zhang	Dr. William Dowhan

Minority Faculty Association Awards

Minority Faculty Association Scholarship

<u>Student</u>	<u>Supervisory Professor</u>
Marenda Wilson	Ambro van Hoof

Jones/Wharton Scholarship for Cancer Research

<u>Student</u>	<u>Supervisory Professor</u>
Malcolm Heard	Geoffrey Ibbott

Special Thanks & Gratitude

Special Thanks

Benefactors

Anne Kennedy
WINGS Chapter of ABWA
Pat and Stuart Ford
Tommy Hastings
Diana and Russell Hawkins
Rodney Kellems
Anand & Sandhya Lagoo
Meredith Long
Thomas Matney
The Schissler Foundation
Ralph Thomas
Roberta and Jean Worsham

With Gratitude

Sandeep Agarwal
Melissa Aldrich
John Antolak
Ralph Arlinghaus
Michelle Barton
Barry Bedell
Fariba Behbod
Roger Bick
Carol Blanchard
Michael Brandt
Joan Breuer-McHam
R. W. Butcher
Carolyn Cannon
Daniel Carson
Linda Carter
Robert Chamberlain
Gina Chappell
Zhoufeng Chen
Richard Clark
Gilbert Cote
James Croft

Stephen Daiger
Paul Darlington
Peter Davies
Sheila Davis
Zooming Deng
Donna DiPaolo
Gregory Dominiak
Herbert DuPont
Anuradha Dutt
Julie Ellerhorst
Frank Fasullo
Jennifer Fernandez
Isaiah Fidler
Lovely Fotedar
Marsha Frazier
Jeffrey Frost
Yasuhide Furuta
Varsha Gandhi
Thomas Gegeny
Eugene Gerner
Armand Glassman
Millicent Goldschmidt
Siew-Ging Gong
E. Joe Grant
Robert Greer
Yi-Zhong Gu
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"Finishing the Degree: Problems at the End" by Jon Wiener, Ph.D.

The imminent graduation of a graduate student should be a celebratory occasion, marking the significant achievement of receiving a graduate degree in Biomedical Sciences. It will be celebratory for both parties when the student walks in Commencement later in the academic year. However, the last few months prior to completion of the defense and dissertation is often a time of intense stresses for both the faculty mentor and student alike. These stresses often result in increased tension and a more confrontational relationship. Planning a degree defense forces two anxious, worried, mentally fatigued, and impatient parties to work intimately together during these final months to complete a complex research project, prepare a thesis/dissertation, participate in a public defense of the work, and part company in a manner acceptable to both.

During this time period, both the student and mentor should strive to understand the stresses perceived by each other. Faculty mentors must not trivialize the stresses that the student feels, and should continue to mentor, teaching the student how to handle stresses that will become normal in their next steps up the career ladder. Students must realize that the situation they are experiencing is normal, and that remaining focused on the goal of finishing their degree while under pressure to complete experiments and write is a lesson in learning to function productively under conditions they will face in future employment. Students must also conquer their fear of performance through an understanding that mentors and faculty committees only allow a student to defend if the student is likely to pass. At this point in their training, the student is a well-informed expert in their research area, and should display the confidence of their knowledge while also displaying an open mind for learning.

The resolution of this situation is based on bringing each party to an understanding of the fundamental stresses of the other party. Both parties wish to achieve success, and the large majority of the students and their mentors reach an agreement about tying up loose ends, cataloging their research materials for easy access, and preparing manuscripts for publication. Students should remember that the faculty mentor has a vital professional, if not personal, interest in ensuring that the student performs superlatively in their oral public defense and written thesis/dissertation. This vital interest ensures that the faculty mentor will attempt to assist the student in reaching their goal. The solution to the mentor/student situation at the end of the training is not complex: listening to the other party with an open mind.

Dear Alumni and other friends,

I want to thank you for the honor of being your president, and give you information about the latest news from your Alumni Association Steering Committee. Currently, we are working on the development of an undergraduate scientific poster competition to be hosted by the GSBS and the Alumni Association next fall. This science day was proposed by the Alumni Association in an effort to fulfill our mission to broaden the visibility of GSBS in the community, promote an educational event in the biological sciences, and give the college student-participants one of their first opportunities to present their research projects in a professional, user-friendly forum. With a little luck, it will encourage the recruitment potential for the Graduate School, as well.

This newsletter displays some of the many photos from the alumni "Retro Reunion" hosted in November. It was a lot of fun, complete with costumes on a few guest "celebrities," and a great talk by Distinguished Alumnus, Gene Gerner, Ph.D. (1974). Dr. Gerner (who presented a brilliant seminar in conjunction with grand rounds on Friday) spoke extemporaneously and entertainingly Saturday evening about the challenges for a cancer researcher working on the gastro intestinal system. The new John P. McGovern Commons in the heart of the Texas Medical Center was the site for the event, and as it turned out, was quite fabulous. If you were not able to join us for this year's reunion, I hope you will plan to do so next fall.

Steven Lott, Ph.D., (1997) was elected vice-president/treasurer (and hence president next year). Thank you, Steve, for agreeing to serve. Most importantly, I want to thank Brenda Whaley, Ph.D. (1995) for her leadership as immediate past president, and her continued active participation as we go forward with the scientific poster competition. Kendra Woods, Ph.D. (1995) and Joya Chandra, Ph.D. (1998) are two new Steering Committee members (they volunteered!), and we expect Mustafa Ozen, Ph.D. (1999) to join us on this committee before the year is out. Thank you for all your support—please check the website on a regular basis (and see ALL the reunion photos not in this issue) <http://gsbs.gs.uth.tmc>, and take time to update your contact information. In other words, I hope you will stay in touch, it's going to be a fascinating year.

Dolores (Dorrie) Lamb, Ph.D. (1980)
President, 2003-2004
GSBS Alumni Association

Dr. Lamb providing an alumni
outreach experience at Sylvan Rodriguez
Elementary School.



Newsletter

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